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Bangalore Mirror

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DUMPING GROUND

Residents of the area just can't seem to help tossing trash into KR Puram's stormwater drain

PAGE 4

FAKE ALERT

Those with stickers falsely claiming to be in government service on their vehicles may face the music

PAGE 5

City's heat index risen by 2% over 2 decades and as heat island phenomenon is stronger at night than day, B'luru doesn't cool down after sundown too

HOW BENGALURU LOST ITS COOL

Increase in built-up area, land surface temperature variation studied

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An assessment of the heat pattern of Bengaluru shows that the heat index of the city (how hot it feels) has increased by 2% over the last two decades.

The study highlights that while the decadal average air temperature in the city has increased by 0.5°C compared to 2001 - 2010; relative humidity has remained stable, leading to a surge in heat stress. Moreover, the increase in built-up area, from 37.5% in 2003 to 71.5% in 2023, has aggravated the situation.

The assessment conducted by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE), a Delhi-based NGO, is based on various factors such as changes in heat patterns during summer season (March to August) from January 2001 to April 2024, increase in built-up area over the two decades, and land surface temperature variation in the given years.

"Air temperature, land surface temperature, and relative humidity are the factors that impact thermal discomfort and heat stress. Although air temperature might record a drop, relative humidity, and land surface temperature can

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Hot nights are as dangerous as midday peak temperatures. People get little chance to recover from daytime heat slaughter if temperatures remain high overnight, exerting prolonged stress on the body - Study

Stuck in a rut

Hebbal, Silk Board Junction top city's 30 congestion points list

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As per the traffic police's in-house congestion monitoring system, ASTraM, there are 30 high congestion points discovered up till May 2024. Hebbal flyover junction tops the list followed by Silk Board junction.

The data was secured from the live tracking of congestions in Bengaluru through the Actionable Intelligence for Sustainable Traffic Management app (ASTraM) launched in January this year. Hebbal Flyover junction tops the list with overall 2,306 severe and high congestion alerts from January to May 24, 2024. There has been a 33.60 per cent increase in traffic congestion in Hebbal Flyover as of May compared to January data.

EYE ON TRAFFIC: 12,192 CASES IN 16 DAYS ON B'LURU-MYSURU HIGHWAY PAGE7

Following on its heels with high congestion alerts is Silk Board junction with 1,341 alerts. However, as per data, traffic congestion has been on a decreasing trend seeing a 43.16 per cent decrease in May.

Others on the list are Goraguntepalya Junction (1,096), DevaraBeesanahalli Jn (882), Big Bazaar Junction (Pharmed Factory Jn) (828), Marathahalli Bridge Jn (772),

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2 THINGS TO DO

01 Celebrate heritage

Experience the grace and beauty of classical dance at the Punyah Dance Festival 2024! This annual festival brings together renowned dancers from across the country to celebrate the rich cultural heritage of India through mesmerising performances. **When: June 1 & 2**
Where: Ravindra Kalakshetra

02 Night of laughter

Get ready for an evening filled with laughter as Gaurav Kapoor, one of India's top stand-up comedians, takes the stage in Bengaluru! Known for his witty humour and relatable anecdotes, Gaurav Kapoor promises a night of non-stop entertainment.
When: June 2
Where: MLR Convention Centre, JP Nagar

Richardson's Face Hospital inaugurated

Richardson's Face Hospital opened on Sunday on Kannur Bagalur Road. This 68-bed hospital is equipped with advanced technology for surgical procedures. Dr Sunil Richardson, a well-known Maxillofacial and Craniofacial Surgeon and the Managing Director of Richardson's Hospital said, "The hospital is equipped with 3D imaging and 2D echo for diagnostics and treatment planning. It also has a dental lab and offers sleep studies for oral health and sleep issues. Additionally, the hospital features an ICU, luxury suites for patient care and comfort, cosmetic treatments for hair and skin, and specialised services in aesthetic surgery, plastic surgery, maxillofacial surgery, ophthalmic plastic surgery, ENT, rhinoplasty, dermatology, and oral and maxillofacial surgery. We also offer in-house spa and Ayurveda treatments."

– Ankita Govind

KSPCB connects treated sewage with construction

Meeting to connect surplus STP water with construction needs, ensuring compliance with Green Tribunal Zero Liquid Discharge rule and promoting sustainable practices

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In a bid to comply with the National Green Tribunal's (NGT) 2019 mandate on Zero Liquid Discharge (ZLD), the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has announced an interactive consultation meeting. The initiative aims to facilitate the sale and usage of excess treated sewage water from apartments and IT companies to construction sites.

The NGT's order, referenced in KSPCB's invitation, strictly enforces ZLD for decentralised Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs). This mandate requires that all treated sewage be fully reused, prohibiting any discharge into roadside drains. Violations of this directive incur hefty fines of Rs 5,00,000 per instance. To address the challenges of fully utilising treated sewage, the KSPCB meeting will bring together stakeholders from the construction industry, residential complexes, and other sectors. The goal is to create a collaborative platform where those with surplus STP water can connect with those in need, particularly for construction and industrial uses.

Effective management of treated sewage is crucial, as the usage of fresh water is banned by both the Government of India and the Government of Karnataka, highlighting the importance of this initiative.

"This initiative by KSPCB is a great step forward. It will not only help us comply with regulations but also contribute to sustainable water management in the city
– a citizen

The consultation meeting will take place at the Hotel Radisson, Outer Ring Road (ORR), on Wednesday, May 29, 2024.

The upcoming meeting will focus on several key areas, including the safety of treated water. The Indian Institute of Science has confirmed that using treated sewage for construction is safe, ensuring that public health is not compromised. Regarding standards and compliance, the KSPCB will reiterate the standards that treated water must meet. Any failure to comply with these standards will result in fines of Rs 5,00,000 per violation, as per NGT directions.

KSPCB has also compiled a comprehensive database detailing where excess treated sewage is available and where it is needed. This resource aims to streamline the process of matching supply with demand. To ensure treated water remains within safety standards during transport, KSPCB proposes that logistics companies and tanker operators implement ultra-filtration systems with Ozonation. This measure will help maintain water quality at the usage point.

Additionally, the meeting will seek innovative ideas for World Environment Day celebrations, encouraging community involvement in sustainable water management practices.

A citizen said, "We have been struggling with finding effective ways to use our treated sewage water. This initiative by KSPCB is a great step forward. It will not only help us comply with regulations but also contribute to sustainable water management in the city."

VK Education Fair turns out to be a big hit

The VK Education Fair concluded successfully on Sunday, drawing in an impressive number of students eager to clear their doubts and explore their academic futures. Held at Jnana Jyothi Auditorium on the Central College campus, the fair was a hub of activity, teeming with enthusiastic students, parents, and educators. Over the weekend, the fair provided a comprehensive platform for students to interact with representatives from various educational institutions, attend informative sessions, and participate in workshops designed to address their queries and concerns.

Throughout the two-day event, students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from prestigious universities and colleges, both local and international. These interactions proved invaluable as students received personalised advice and detailed information about courses, admission procedures, scholarships, and career prospects. The representatives were well-prepared to answer a wide range of questions, ensuring that students left with a clear understanding of their options.

The overwhelming turnout and positive feedback from participants underscored the fair's success in addressing the educational needs and aspirations of the student community. With all doubts cleared and numerous possibilities explored, the fair was a stepping stone for many students towards a promising academic and professional future.

Focus on soft skills

Medical Education and Skill Development Minister Dr Sharanprakash Patil stated, "Private colleges are attracting more students than government colleges. To compete, we need to focus on quality and skill-based education. We've introduced the 'Learn and Earn' program to provide skill-based education in government degree and technical courses. Currently, only 20 per cent of the one lakh engineering graduates each year secure jobs, primarily due to a lack of skill-based education. To address this, we are collaborating with industrialists."

He suggested that students must set goals in life; without goals, achieving success is challenging. As technology advances rapidly and people's expectations change, we must stay updated on every subject. Students need to develop a genuine interest in learning and explore various courses to create their own opportunities. There is no shortage of opportunities, but students need to know how to convert them into success.

— Prakash VL

Misjudged: Man relieved after real killers of his wife nabbed

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CRIME FILES

The life of Balakrishna Pai is nothing less than the plot of a crime thriller. From being falsely accused of his wife's murder to later finding out 11 years later that his close friend was the real culprit, his story is a tragic tale of misjudgement by the police.

It was February of 2013, when the Chikkajala police found a decomposed body of a woman in a eucalyptus grove. The incident came to light just a few days after her husband, Pai, had lodged a missing complaint report.

"My wife left for the office as usual and I was at home. I had called her to ask what to cook for dinner. She didn't pick up, so I called my daughter who was a PUC student back then. My wife had a habit of calling my daughter at a particular time every day, and when I found out that she didn't even call her, I got worried. We later contacted her colleague who informed us that she didn't even come to the office that day," Pai told BM.

They decided to inform the police and a complaint was filed at Sanjaynagar Police Station.

It was only when the body was discovered, trouble began for Pai and his daughter. "The police called us to identify a body, and I couldn't recognise it from the photo. My daughter identified the body through the photo," added Pai.

After investigating the case for two years, the police arrested Pai on July 27, 2015. According to the police report from then, Chikkajala police had found blood stains in the couple's house which was a match with the victim's blood. The police also noted that on the day when Pai filed the missing report, his phone was switched off for a long time.

"They called me for questioning and it felt like they were trying to establish a link. They kept asking me if my wife and I had marriage problems. I said that we were happily married with a daughter. They also called my daughter for questioning and suggested that she had schemed with me to kill her mother," said Pai.

Pai told BM that sometimes the inspector would call his daughter and ask for her to come to the police station. "He said that if she didn't show up, he would send a female constable to arrest her. She was a student, who had college work and whose mother was murdered, and then she had to go through all this trouble with the police," said Pai.

"One of the accused used to be a good friend of mine. I can't believe that the person I trusted was involved in this heinous crime

Pai spent 73 days in jail and described it as, "living through hell". He was then granted bail because police couldn't find any evidence against him. He then approached the High Court, demanding a CID investigation in the case. The case was then again opened in 2022.

According to a CID official, a thorough review of all the evidence gathered by local authorities, including call records from phone numbers on the day she disappeared, resulted in the latest arrest. This investigation pointed the detectives towards a suspect, Deepak C. The CID has now arrested and filed charges against Narasimhamurthy, who was the manager of a bank in Mahalakshmi Layout branch in 2013, the branch where Pai was employed. His associates, Hariprasad N, and Deepak have also been apprehended. The trio are accused of gang-raping the deceased before killing her.

"One of the accused used to be a good friend of mine. I remember the time when my wife went missing, I told him about it. He was supportive of me, consoled me when I cried and helped me in every way possible. I can't believe that the person I trusted was involved in this heinous crime," said Pai.

Pai said that he has filed a case in 2019 in the court against police brutality and the injustice that he faced and is now at peace after the real culprits have been caught.

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Waste to watts: Energy plant finally takes shape

Environmentalists advocate air monitoring; experts suggest waste segregation for efficient transport

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Despite substantial expenditure, landfills still receive a significant portion of the waste due to insufficient processing. Of the 5,000 tonnes of daily waste, 3,000 tonnes end up in landfills

The long-awaited waste-to-energy plant in Bidadi is set to begin testing in June. Despite spending Rs 900 crore annually, BBMP faces challenges in waste management. Yet, once operational, the plant could not only turn waste into energy but also illuminate many homes.

The plant is built to manage 600 tonnes of solid waste and generate 11.5 MW of refuse-derived fuels (RDF). It's a collaboration between Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and BBMP, following an engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) model, costing around Rs 260 crore. Former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa laid the project's foundation stone in December 2020. The plant aims to help BBMP dispose of 25% of its waste scientifically. After five years of discussions, it's the first-of-its-kind plant to start operations, offering an eco-friendly solution to reduce landfill pressure. Generating 80.59 MU of power as a byproduct, it will also contribute to the State Grid. Delays, including those caused by Covid, pushed back its initial 2020 opening. "ISGEC Heavy Engineering Ltd., Noida, and Hitachi Zosen India Pvt Ltd. are constructing the Waste-to-Energy plant. They've previously built a similar operational plant in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh which has been operational for the past four years," said a BBMP official. At the inaugural ceremony, The Chief Minister acknowledged Bengaluru's challenges with waste disposal practices, which incur high costs and environmental risks.

Environmentalists applaud the government's initiative and urge the installation of a continuous air monitoring system. Experts recommend that BBMP transport non-recyclable items to the plant while segregating recyclable dry waste. They stress the importance of an air quality monitoring system on-site and strict adherence to Central Pollution Controlling Board (CPCB) standards. Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited oversees waste disposal, with seven processing units established. Despite substantial expenditure, landfills still receive a significant portion of the waste due to insufficient processing. Of the 5,000 tonnes of daily waste, 3,000 tonnes end up in landfills. As the Mitaganahalli site nears capacity, a new landfill is under development in Hullahalli.

> **"ISGEC Heavy engineering Ltd. are constructing the Waste-to-Energy plant. They've previously built similar operational plants**
> – BBMP official

The potential completion of the new waste-to-energy plant could lead to substantial savings for BBMP, possibly up to Rs 14 crore. On a different note, BBMP had previously engaged private players to generate electricity at its waste plants in Kannahalli, Doddabidarakallu, Mavallipura, Mandur, Bellahalli, and Chikkanagamangala. However, this initiative has yet to materialise

No wall to keep trash-tossers at bay

People dump waste into storm water drain as retaining wall remains unfinished

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Retaining wall is only partially built and installation of chain link mesh is also undone at storm water drain near Jai Bhuvaneshwari Layout

Citizens in Jai Bhuvaneshwari Layout, close to Cambridge College in KR Puram, are struggling with foul odours from a nearby stormwater drain. Though initially relieved by the stormwater drains department's efforts to heighten the retaining wall, locals now express frustration as the construction remains unfinished. This has caused further issues in the area.

According to the locals, the BBMP has hired a contractor to clear silt and garbage from the drain. However, despite these efforts, inhabitants persist in dumping garbage into the stormwater drain.

Malarvizhi M, residing in a nearby apartment complex, expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of the drain, " I have been residing here for the last three years. I am unhappy with this incomplete construction of the retaining wall and some people continue to dump garbage in the drains which is adding more to the trouble," she said.

Bad condition

Expressing a similar opinion, Shiny Shanbagam of Jai Bhuvaneshwari Layout has said that she has been residing in the layout for more than a decade. "When I moved here, the stormwater drain was designed solely for rainwater and was clean. However, its condition has deteriorated over the years as people from neighbouring areas have started dumping garbage into it. I saw children climbing the retaining wall to dump trash," said Shiny.

A citizen, on the condition of anonymity, has said that the drain, instead of carrying rainwater, has been carrying dirty water to the nearest water body. "I suspect some people are letting sewage into the drain thus not only polluting water in the drain but also causing inconvenience to the people residing near the stormwater drain," he said.

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Construction strain

Chinnapanahalli

Construction at Bagmane Tech Park has obstructed the drainage water flow in Chinnapanahalli,5th Cross, Mahadevapura Constituency.

Trash trouble

Chickpet

Despite numerous complaints to the BBMP, garbage persists outside the apartment at 86, Cottonpet Main Road, Akkipete, Chickpet, causing issues like a mosquito breeding ground.

Road wreck

Vivekanagar

The road construction quality by the contractor at 244, 5th Main Road, 5th Cross, Vivekanagar, is poor and unsatisfactory

Beware of fake banking apps

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In an era of increasing economic fraud and cybercrime, fake bank apps have become a new tool for fraudsters, following the trend of fake loan apps.

The police say that fake bank apps are designed by cybercriminals to steal personal information. These fraudulent apps mimic legitimate banking apps and are being distributed via social media platforms such as WhatsApp, Telegram, and Facebook.

PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Once installed, these fake apps prompt users to enter sensitive information, including bank account numbers, PAN card details, and SIM card information. With this data, criminals can easily access and transfer money from victims' bank accounts.

Authorities have urged the public to exercise caution and avoid downloading apps from unverified sources.

"If you have already installed a suspicious app and noticed money deducted, file a cyber complaint. Contact the police toll-free at 1930

–a senior police officer

"Before downloading any app, ensure its legitimacy by checking the App Store or Play Store. If you have already installed a suspicious app and noticed money deducted, file a cyber complaint. Contact the police toll-free at 1930. Losing money in such cases constitutes cybercrime," a senior police official told BM.

Experts say that if you have already downloaded such an app, it is crucial to delete it immediately and review your mobile settings to ensure no services have been forwarded to unknown numbers.

"Legitimate banks will never request personal information or account details via phone or app. Because of the rise in crimes of this nature, banks also keep sending SMS alerts to their customers, warning them that banks will never ask for personal information over a call or text," said a bank employee.

A cybersecurity engineer told BM, "If information from your bank on WhatsApp has a green tick, it is verified. However, be cautious as fake apps can closely mimic real ones, often containing subtle spelling mistakes. It's advised to never download an app through a link and always use the Play Store."

Sticky business: Fake govt vehicles under scanner

RTO plans to crack down on people using stickers indicating government service on their vehicles

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PIC FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

The Regional Transport Office (RTO) in Bengaluru is launching a special drive in June to crack down on the misuse of government vehicle stickers and logos. It's become trendy for individuals to use labels like 'Police,' 'Government Vehicles,' 'Government of India Service,' and 'Government of Karnataka Service,' despite not owning government vehicles. The RTO's Additional Commissioner (Enforcement), Mallikarjun C, emphasised that only specific State or Central government vehicles are allowed to use such labels, excluding Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). He also stated that vehicles should only display original markings from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) without additional writing or fitments. Official state government vehicles are registered under the G series, and even entities like KSRTC cannot use government labels.

Some individuals use stickers that read 'Polite' to create an optical illusion resembling 'Police,' misleading others into thinking their vehicle is a police car. This practice, along with the use of unauthorised government logos, not only violates traffic regulations but can also erode public trust in legitimate government and law enforcement vehicles. Misuse of such stickers can lead to confusion during emergencies, delays, or misunderstandings, and potentially aid criminals in evading law enforcement. Strict enforcement of these regulations is crucial for maintaining clarity and safety on the roads, preventing identity theft, and reducing the risk of impersonation crimes.

Furthermore, Bengaluru faces issues with tampered number plates. Motorists often use masks or cover parts of their number plates to evade detection by traffic cameras, particularly to avoid fines for not wearing helmets. Defective number plates often result from ignorance of standard guidelines. The fine for defective or altered number plates in Bengaluru is Rs 500 for the first offence and Rs 1,000 for subsequent offences. According to the Motor Vehicle Act, number plates should adhere to specific size guidelines: 200x100 mm for two and three-wheelers, 340x200 mm or 500x120 mm for light motor vehicles, and 340x200 mm for heavy commercial vehicles.

The fine for defective or altered number plates in Bengaluru is Rs 500 for the first offence and Rs 1,000 for subsequent offences

Public concerns over defective number plates have increased police enforcement. Citizens believe strict action is necessary against those who tamper with or obscure number plates, which can complicate traffic law enforcement. Social media users suggest practical solutions like inspecting vehicles at traffic signals rather than stopping them on the move and encouraging public reporting of violations through photographs. Additionally, there is a call for authorities to prevent the installation of non-compliant number plates. Issues with vehicles sporting dark-tinted windows and defective or missing number plates, often owned by wealthy or politically influential individuals, are widespread. Such offenders rarely face consequences, leading to frustration among the public. Enhanced enforcement and public involvement are seen as essential steps to address these violations effectively.

Domlur club gets new administrator

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Domlur Club continues to hit the headlines for the wrong reasons. Following complaints from some members, including its president, the Under Secretary of the Cooperation Department has appointed an administrator for Domlur Club for six months.

In an order issued on May 21, the Under Secretary appointed BV Gangadhar, Deputy Registrar of the Department of Cooperative Societies, as the new administrator for Domlur Club. "The administrator has to assume office immediately. The administrator has to look into the complaints and discrepancies, hold elections to the managing committee of Domlur Club, and submit a report to the state government after handing over the administration to the new managing committee," the Under Secretary stated in the order.

BV Gangadhar sent a message to Domlur Club members, stating that the elections to the managing committee, originally scheduled for June 9, 2024, are cancelled until further notice due to certain discrepancies in the voters' list.

When contacted, Gangadhar mentioned that he had found some discrepancies in the voters' list of Domlur Club. "I assumed office on Tuesday. I can't reveal the discrepancies to the media. Elections to the managing committee will be held only after correcting those discrepancies," said Gangadhar.

Meanwhile, T Giriraj, who was allegedly removed as Domlur Club president by the managing committee, expressed his satisfaction with the government's decision to appoint an administrator. "I am very happy with the truth finally prevailing. We have submitted a list of complaints to the authorities, and it is up to them to investigate those complaints and take suitable action against those responsible for irregularities at the club," said Giriraj.

Following complaints from some members, including its president, administrator for club for 6 months

Bangalore Mirror published a story on July 10, 2023, titled "Hullabaloo at posh city club," detailing allegations of misuse of funds at Domlur Club and the subsequent FIR registered by Indiranagar Police. Another article, "Club clash continues as nobody is ready to blink," published on April 21, 2024, described the ongoing conflicts among Domlur Club's top members and the members' concerns about losing face.

It is noteworthy that the District Registrar of Cooperative Societies issued an order on April 8, 2024, appointing BV Gangadhar, Deputy Registrar of Cooperative Societies, as an inquiry officer for Domlur Club based on complaints by Giriraj, the president of Domlur Club, along with V Saravana, Muniyappa, and M Nagendra.

Cauvery connection: Of 3 lakh households, only 48,000 apply

BWSSB urges citizens to apply as there may be water shortages in summer

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BWSSB worker digging to install water pipes underground

Pressure had been mounting on BWSSB to expedite the Cauvery Fifth Stage Project, but now the board is shocked by the poor response to Cauvery water connections. So far, only 48,000 applications have been received, against an estimated 3.5 lakh properties in the region.

BWSSB Chairman Dr Ram Prasath Manohar V said, "We are urging citizens to apply for Cauvery water connections. Many of them believe they do not need Cauvery water because of the current rainfall, but they may face difficulties next summer. We assure citizens that the process for obtaining Cauvery connections is hassle-free. BWSSB is planning a door-to-door campaign to encourage applications for Cauvery connections."

Some citizens opt against applying for Cauvery connections, citing their ongoing access to free CMC water and questioning the need for additional expenses. Concerns also arise regarding the cost involved in obtaining a Cauvery connection. Despite delays, BWSSB officials maintain confidence in providing drinking water to the 110 villages now merged with BBMP. Initially scheduled for completion by August 2023 under the JICA agreement, the 5th stage of the water supply project is now anticipated to conclude by May 2024.

> **"We are urging citizens to apply for Cauvery water connections. We assure hassle-free process**
> – Ram Prasanth Manohar V, BWSSB

In response, a senior official explained, "Delays in the Cauvery Fifth Stage project were caused by successive COVID waves and curfew disruptions. Initially slated for August 2023 completion, the Cauvery Fifth Stage project now aims for May 2024 finish. Installation of the main pipeline in CP-9 and CP-10 packages is underway, with roads to be restored afterwards. Administrative approval for the project was granted on October 12, 2017, with a budget of Rs. 5,500 crore. JICA provided 84% funding, while the State Government and BWSSB contributed 8% each. Upon completion, the city will receive over 775 MLD of water daily. Work orders totalling Rs. 3,728 crores for drinking water were issued in 2019-20 and 2020-21, with an additional Rs. 1,014 crore order in 2020-21."

Will there be an increase in water tariffs this year?

This year, there's a possibility of water tariff hikes as BWSSB has sought State Government approval for such increases.

The proposal includes raising monthly tariffs for domestic users by three to five per cent, with commercial tariffs potentially increasing from five to eight per cent. A senior BWSSB official said, "Inflation has impacted all sectors. BESCOM recently increased power tariffs, affecting our finances. The only viable option for us to sustain operations is to pass on the costs to consumers through a price hike. We last revised tariffs in 2014, and since then, there has been no increase. Hence, we propose a five per cent hike for domestic consumption of every 1,000 litres and an eight per cent increase for commercial consumption of 1,000 litres."

BWSSB officials added that since BESCOM raised its tariff, their monthly electricity bill has risen by Rs 1 crore. The water board collects nearly Rs 110 crore in bills, with Rs 30 crore allocated for maintenance and Rs 12 crore for salaries. Annually, 66 percent of BWSSB's expenses go towards paying power bills.

Lake cleanup: 125 bags of trash collected

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Once renowned for its clean water used for drinking and irrigation, Yele Mallappa Chetty Lake has deteriorated into a dumping ground for various types of waste, disappointing lake activists and environmentalists who have urged authorities to restore its former beauty without success.

The Indian Ploggers Army organised a clean-up drive in association with locals and lake activists at Yele Mallappa Chetty Lake on Saturday. A group of 40 volunteers and locals managed to collect 125 bags of trash in 90 minutes.

Yele Lingaraj, a retired geologist and the great-grandson of the late Yele Mallappa Settaru, participated in the clean-up drive. "I am unhappy with the condition of this water body. I still remember when the lake water was used for drinking and irrigation purposes. The military had installed a diesel pump to supply water to the military camps situated in the Cantonment area in the 1950s. I want the government to take measures to clean up 25 upstream tanks or lakes to ensure clean water in this lake. There will be no use in cleaning this lake without cleaning those upstream lakes. Water overflowing from those lakes flows into this lake," he said. He added that his great-grandfather donated the lake to the government without seeking compensation, intending it to be utilised for public purposes.

Meanwhile, volunteers participated in the cleanup drive with enthusiasm. "The lake has become a destination for dumping waste, including empty liquor bottles, on the lake bund. We want to organise more clean-up drives in the future at this lake," said Plog Raj, the founder of the Indian Ploggers Army.

Group of 40 volunteers and locals collected 125 bags of trash at YMS Lake

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Costly addiction

Social media addiction can lead to unexpected consequences, as seen in the recent suspension of a bus driver and conductor. KSRTC officials reported, "A video circulating on social media shows a driver of a transport vehicle (KA-25 F-1336) holding an umbrella and driving in the rain on May 23, 2024, around 4:30 pm, on the Bettageri-Dharwad road. The driver, Hanumanthappa, and the supervisor, Anita HB, were on duty at the time. With no passengers on board, the driver took the umbrella from the supervisor and drove the bus for fun while the supervisor recorded the incident." Contrary to assumptions, there was no leakage in the vehicle's roof, and no complaints were received from the driver, supervisor, or passengers. Technical experts inspected the vehicle and confirmed it was in good condition. The staff involved stated that the video was meant purely for entertainment. Both of them were suspended."

CM's heartbreak story

The Chief Minister recently highlighted the government's efforts to promote inter-caste marriages as a means to combat societal divisions. Sharing a personal anecdote, he revealed, "I too wanted to marry outside my caste, but the girl refused. During my studies, I was friends with a girl and wished to marry her. Unfortunately, her family and she opposed the idea, forcing me to marry within my caste. Now, I question whether I have the right to discuss this topic, but I fully support inter-caste marriages." Earlier, as Siddaramaiah began his speech, enthusiastic supporters interrupted with slogans, prompting an agitated CM to urge them to sit down and listen to his message.

No comments

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar and former Chief Minister HD Kumaraswamy have been at odds for some time, with the latest clash revolving around Prajwal Revanna. Recently, former Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda penned an open letter to his grandson, urging him to return and surrender. When journalists sought DK Shivakumar's reaction, he declined to comment, stating it was a private family matter. Meanwhile, Leader of the Opposition R Ashoka accused Prajwal of speaking with the Chief Minister before leaving the country. When asked for his reaction, the CM denied any conversation with Prajwal and sarcastically suggested that Prajwal might have spoken to Ashoka instead, given their political alliance.

Refusing to divulge names

During the recent press conference, journalists eagerly sought information about whether any Telugu actors had attended the notorious rave party. Bengaluru Police Commissioner B Dayananda confirmed that there was indeed one actor from the Telugu film industry present at the event. However, when pressed for more details, the Commissioner confessed that he couldn't identify the actor. He explained that his unfamiliarity with the Telugu cinema scene left him unable to name the individual.

— Sridhar Vivan

EYE ON TRAFFIC SCENE

ANPR cameras on the job: 12,192 cases in 16 days

₹80 lakh in fines for violations such as speeding on B'luru–Mysuru highway

Only two-three of ANPR cameras are operational on Bengaluru–Mysuru Highway so far

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

"With advanced technology cameras deployed on the expressway, we can effectively monitor speeding and lane violations. The footage is transmitted to the control room
–Traffic police official

In just 16 days, an astounding 12,192 traffic offences have been recorded on the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway. Police reported collecting Rs 80 lakh in penalties, with fines of Rs 500 for not wearing a seatbelt and Rs 1,000 for speeding.

This significant amount was amassed despite only two to three Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras being operational. The number of violations detected is expected to rise substantially once all 10 ANPR cameras are fully functional. Most violations were detected by the ANPR system near RR Hospital in Channapatna. According to lane-specific speed limits, vehicles in the leftmost lane should travel at 60 kmph, those in the middle lane at 80 kmph, and those in the rightmost lane at 100 kmph.

With ANPR cameras, vehicle users have to exercise caution not only on Airport Road but also on Mysuru Road, where surveillance cameras are actively monitoring traffic. A total of 10 cameras will be set up on the highway, spanning the 119 km stretch. Five cameras on the Mysuru side are dedicated to tracking traffic violations, while two cameras on the Bengaluru side monitor adherence to traffic regulations. The cameras were set up at cost of Rs 3.63 crore, with a single company in Ramanagara and Mandya districts being awarded the contract for this project.

The cameras record both images and videos of violations, which is then relayed to the control room via the internet. The system will autonomously issue fines to the vehicle owners found in breach of traffic regulations. A police official elaborated, "With advanced technology cameras deployed on the expressway, we can effectively monitor speeding and lane violations. The footage captured by these cameras will be transmitted to the control room, facilitating automatic fine generation for traffic rule violations."

The camera installations are strategically placed at several key locations across Ramanagara and Mandya District. In Ramanagara, these locations include Puthapppanadoddi Gate, Bilagumba Samip, Kethaganahalli Railway Cross, Kempanahalli Gate, and Mudigere Gate. Mandya has also seen the deployment of five ANPR cameras at various spots. CCTV cameras have been installed specifically at toll gates along the expressway. These cameras play a crucial role in monitoring and controlling a range of traffic violations, such as speeding, lane crossing, and the unauthorized entry of autos and bikes onto the highway.

A senior police official added, "These cutting-edge cameras provide us with an invaluable tool to monitor and deter speeding violations, ultimately contributing to the reduction of accidents and promoting safer driving behaviours. ANPR cameras are equipped with advanced features that allow for real-time monitoring of vehicle speeds. They can accurately capture and record license plate information, enabling us to identify vehicles that exceed speed limits and pose a risk to road safety. By effectively enforcing speed limits and cracking down on speeding offenders, we anticipate a notable reduction in road accidents. "

Office peak hour rush makes ORR chock-a-block

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timegroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Commuters have reported that traffic on the Outer Ring Road has significantly worsened, with travel times exceeding 75 minutes for a 17-km distance, while it used to take 40-45 minutes earlier. The primary cause is the recent implementation of a three-day work-from-office policy by most companies in the area, leading to a surge in commuters. This policy shift has not only clogged the roads but also "made it challenging to find seating in the cafeterias during lunch hours", some people we spoke to said.

A representative from Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru, a citizen activist group, told BM that most companies on Outer Ring Road have mandated three days of work from the office. Previously, this was also the mandate, but it wasn't being tracked, but now it is being tracked. "Management has clearly communicated that failure to adhere to this policy might result in consequences such as poor appraisals and layoffs. Consequently, all employees have started coming to the office, including some who had permanently moved to their hometowns," they said.

This has led to sudden spikes in traffic on ORR. Offices have become crammed, and finding a seat in the cafeteria during recess is now a challenging task. Additionally, the metro station construction on this stretch has taken up some space, exacerbating issues with potholes, water logging, and lack of lane discipline at junctions such as Iblur.

The group also took to social media to demand intervention due to increased traffic and overcrowded offices on Outer Ring Road.

"Stricter office attendance mandates and ongoing metro construction are worsening congestion and infrastructure issues," they added.

A working professional told BM that while traveling to work he is stuck in traffic for hours.

"I notice that ongoing metro construction and potholes cause traffic congestion. The situation is exacerbated by people returning to office work. When schools reopen after summer vacation, the congestion will likely worsen, as school buses will add to the traffic on the same routes."

Some commuters also said traffic cops seem preoccupied with clearing drains instead of managing the escalating traffic woes. Residents blame civic agencies in the city for not doing their work properly.

Another commuter said, "One can't blame traffic police at this point. If they are having to do the work of civic agencies as well, it is not their fault. And it isn't a traffic management issue, when people just refuse to take public transport."

BM Finance Fundas

Consumer Connect Initiative

'Date of house possession key for tax benefit under section 54'

The Mumbai bench of the Income-tax Appellate Tribunal (ITAT) recently stated that the date of possession should be considered to determine eligibility for a tax benefit under section 54 of the Income-tax (I-T) Act for an under-construction property, as reported by Lubna Kably of the Times of India.

This ruling is important because you can get tax benefits if you invest in a new house within a specific period. When you invest in the new house, the tax you have to pay on the profit from selling your old house is reduced. This means you will pay less tax overall.

As per this clause, the new house must be bought within one year before or two years after the sale of the old house. Alternatively, the new residential property can be built within three years from the date of sale of the original property.

In a particular case involving a non-resident couple for the financial year 2010-11, the Income Tax (I-T) officer disallowed the exemption and calculated each individual's taxable income to be approximately Rs 36 lakh. Additionally, penalties were

imposed on the couple as the I-T officer viewed their claim for an incorrect deduction as 'concealment of income' or 'furnishing of inaccurate particulars of income'.

The non-resident couple sold their old house on February 10, 2011.

Section 54 tax benefits

Under the Income-tax Act, 1961 provisions, individuals can avail tax benefits on Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) by making investments in specified instruments as per the guidelines outlined in sections 54 to 54GB of the Act, based on their applicability.

An individual can save tax on Long-Term Capital Gains (LTCG) under section 54 of the Income Tax Act by investing in a residential house. To be eligible for this tax-saving benefit, the LTCG must have been generated from the sale of a residential house. Tax on LTCG under section 54 can be avoided if the individual purchases a new residential house within two years after the sale or one year before the sale of the asset or constructs a new house within three years from the date of the sale.

Section 54 of the Income Tax Act allows an individual or HUF to claim exemption on long-term capital gains from selling a residential house property if the gains are invested in the acquisition, i.e., purchase or construction, of another residential property. **–ETOnline**

Heat index up by 2% in 20 years

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

combine to enhance discomfort. Bengaluru's summertime has registered a 0.5°C increase in decadal average ambient air temperature while the relative humidity has remained stable over the last two decades, leading to an increase of 2% in heat index," noted the study.

What is heat index

The heat index is a measure of how hot it feels when humidity is factored in with the air temperature. It is considered that a heat index of 41°C is dangerous to human health.

CSE's analysis also noted that the urban heat island phenomena are stronger at night than daytime in Bengaluru. During the daytime in summer, the core of Bengaluru was found to be 0.6°C cooler than its peripheries and peri-urban areas. But at night the core was 2.5°C warmer than its peripheries and peri-urban areas.

The analysis also shows that nights are cooling down by just 10.1°C, which is 15% down from the 2001-10 level. Although the city's green cover has increased from 18.8 % in 2003 to 26.4% in 2023, it had no impact on nighttime temperature and increasing heat index in the city.

"Hot nights are as dangerous as midday peak temperatures. People get little chance to recover from daytime heat slaughter if temperatures remain high overnight, exerting prolonged stress on the body. As per a study, risk of death from excessively hot nights increases nearly six-fold," noted the analysis. The assessment was conducted in six megacities of India, including Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad, and Chennai.

Overall scenario

Given the increase in relative humidity during summers, the heat index was found to have increased across all megacities. Chennai´s summer average heat index stood at 37.4°C, making it the hottest among all six megacities studied. Kolkata with a summer HI average of 36.5°C and Mumbai with 34.3°C were the hottest. Delhi's summer HI average stood at 32.2 °C and Hyderabad's at 29.3°C. Bengaluru was the least hot among the megacities with a summer HI average of 26.9°C.

Concrete surface area was found to have increased across all six cities over the last two decades, leading to a rise in heat stress. Kolkata recorded the highest percentage of its land under concrete and the lowest green cover in 2023. Over the last two decades, the built-up area in Chennai has doubled showing the most rapid concretization. Kolkata registered the slowest rate of concretization.

The green cover was found to have declined in Mumbai, Kolkata, and Chennai. The highest decline was noted in Chennai (shrunk by almost 14%).

All jammed up at 30 spots

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Kundalahalli Gate (741), Kadubeesanahalli Jn(592), Sarjapura WIPRO Jn (506), and Iblur Junction (Sarjapur Road) (433).

The other congestion points include Vishweshwaraiah Junction (Uttam Sagar), Byappanahalli Junction (Suranjandas & Om road), Doddanakundi, Horamavu, Ayyappa Temple Junction, Gokuldas Images, Devasandra, Ejipura and more.

According to police officials, while traffic can be managed in top congestion points, there is a need for improvement of civic infrastructure. "We have been collecting data on the congestion points in Bengaluru using the ASTraM app.

We are monitoring 21 corridors using the app. Along with camera feed and other third-party sources, we can identify congestion points and calculate the severity of congestion by calculating the length of the congestion.

While there is a need for improvement of civic infrastructure, BBMP has already taken up work for the development of high-density corridors," said MN Anucheth, IPS, Joint Commissioner of Police, BTP.

Issue at Hebbal

He added that congestion at Hebbal Flyover junction has been increasing due to KR Puram ramp dismantling and frequent rains. "Congestion has been increasing on Hebbal Flyover junction due to the dismantling of the KR Puram ramp and traffic diversion. Additionally, there have been rains in the past two months, slowing down traffic on the stretch" he added.

Senior traffic officials told BM that the existing infrastructure is not proportional to the vehicle count on the road.

"Traffic from KR Puram is joining the main line leading to congestion. Traffic can only be managed on the ground but there is a need for expansion of infrastructure. Officials who permitted these many buildings and apartments should have also considered the capacity of the existing infrastructure. With more people feeling unsafe on two-wheelers, they are resorting to four-wheelers leading to the consumption of more square feet of road space.

Additionally, when civic infrastructure is taken up, the alternatives provided should be equally convenient. Commuters still prefer the BIAL road and use it due to a lack of good alternatives," said a senior traffic official.

Commenting on the decrease in congestion on Silk Board junction, traffic cops said that they have been taking up several measures to address congestion. "For the road stretch from Madivala towards HSR, we found footpath blockage and debris dumping. Similarly, there was a lot of debris from Electronic City to Madiavala.

We removed the debris and provided for more carriage width for commuters. We also noticed that nearly 30 per cent of the traffic was coming from Jayanagar, and peak traffic flowed from Electronic City to CBD in the morning, and CBD to Electronic City in the evening. Based on our data, we were able to adjust signal timings and manage traffic to improve traffic flow," said a senior traffic official.

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I, YASEEN KHAN ZAKIR HUSSAIN, S/o YASEEN KHAN R/o No 414 Ayesha Masjid Road Mangammana Palya Bengaluru 560068. I have changed my name to ZAKEER HUSSAIN vide affidavit dated: 20/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, AVINASH SALIAN, S/o SHRIDHAR SALIAN R/o J-502 Ittina Mahaveer Apartments, Neeladri Road Electronic City Phase 1 Bangalore-560100. I have changed my name to AVINASH SHRIDHAR SALIAN vide affidavit dated: 22/05/2024 Before Notary B M Chandrashekar Bangalore.

I, MD JUNAID AHAMAD SHARIF R/a No.M23 1st Main Vinobhanagar KG Halli Bangalore-45. I, have changed my name to, MOHAMMED JUNAID AHMED SHARIFF Vide affidavit dated 24/05/2024 Sworn Before Notary : MEER HASSAN

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Does 'whining' make you happier?

A therapist gives his verdict

A problem shared is a problem halved.

Research by Age UK shows that only 29 per cent of adults share their worries, but of these, 36 per cent feel brighter as a result; 26 per cent feel relief having confided in someone, and 8 per cent feel that the problem recedes once shared.

Both the Sun and Daily Mail newspapers recently highlighted research by Southwest University in Chongqing, China, which asked a similar question in relation to teenagers: are they happier the more they "co-ruminate"?

The Sun interpreted this as: "Whining can actually make us happier – but only in a key setting". And the Daily Mail as: "Ranting with your friends can actually make you happier, study finds". But does misery really like company so much that we might enjoy being miserable? Let's take a closer look at the study.

The researchers defined co-rumination as communication where people overthink and repeatedly discuss personal issues and negative emotions within a group for social support. These are conversations defined not only by the pessimistic personal topics discussed but the group support in discussing such topics together.

This process of collective rumination is key to psychotherapy, where it is not only the telling of negative experiences to another but the experience of having your experiences validated, which has the potential to enable you to feel better – or, at least, less bad.

Co-rumination is more effective if the speaking involves what the Southwest University researchers call an "intimate, honest self-disclosure" to people within a relationship that is supportive and encouraging (co-reflection) rather than a set of talks within an empty, inauthentic relationship that merely "reinforces negative experiences, increasing the risk of depression and anxiety" (co-brooding).

> **Whiners find pleasure in bonding over resentments and refusing the 'other' people. Supporters find happiness in sharing worries in order to accept**

Psychotherapy encourages prioritising a recognition of problems in order to address them (co-reflection) over worrying talk we often have with ourselves or others that only emphasises and keeps us stuck in worries (co-brooding). Misery does indeed like company, but we can still choose what company our misery can keep.

'Obsessive whining'

The new study significantly recognises positives in the bitching, griping, miserable company, termed by the researchers "obsessive whining".

Although this whining may focus on negative content, it creates a group identity that allows the participants to feel less alone.

We see this in schoolyards, workplaces and online platforms where the negativity and bitchiness allow us to be part of a group. And belonging to a group often offsets the negativity carried in that group's anger, frustrations and even hatred.

From disenfranchised, misunderstood teens to radicalised group hatred, the company of moaning misery extends friendships and fellowship, albeit at the price of reinforcing the negativity.

But this price of staying in a pessimistic contrary space is one many are happy to pay – though one might ask about the long-term cost of "friends like these".

The research distinguished a different type of co-rumination called "supportive discussion", which involves open or vulnerable sharing or self-disclosure.

These discussions aim at a self-empowerment that is not at the expense of others. This group's recognition of, and support for, self-humility is in marked contrast to the obsessive negativity projected onto other people we resent.

The whiners find pleasure in bonding over resentments and refusing the "other" people. The supporters find happiness in sharing personal worries in order to accept. Online griping only conflates negativity. In contrast, the co-rumination of supportive discussions, like psychotherapy, gives negativity a space – but it contains and holds it.

The researchers recognise that in relationships, the groups themselves are the key. It is our life's journey to learn that friendships may not always endure.

As we grow older, hopefully, our needs in a relationship and friendship develop and evolve. We can discard the negativity trap of being stuck in the company of misery and perpetual complaint.

There are some relationships that only feed and perpetuate the negativity within us and other relationships that help us address the negative things in our lives.

The latter is richer and thus more enriching because our humanity is met, and not just our moaning. But it is challenging to own and share our own hurt or anger vulnerably with another person.

It is so much easier to project our moaning anger and hurt outwards and belong to the angry group – or indeed, mob.

(By Ray O'Neill, Dublin City University, The Conversation)

MIRRORLIGHTS

Are keto-like low-carb and high-fat diets harmful to your heart health?

While popular fad diets such as keto-like low carbohydrate and high fat (LCHF) diets may help you lose weight, these are not good for the heart, said health experts on Sunday.

A recent study led by University of British Columbia researchers found that following a Low Carb High Fat (LCHF) diet was associated with increased LDL (low-density lipoprotein) cholesterol or the "bad" cholesterol and apolipoprotein B levels, and an increased risk of incident Major adverse cardiovascular events (MACE). Apolipoprotein B is a blood test to gauge the risk of heart disease.

In the study of 305 LCHF and 1,220 standard diet participants, 11.1 per cent of LCHF had severe hypercholesterolemia -- high levels of cholesterol in the blood, compared to 6.2 per cent of standard diet individuals.

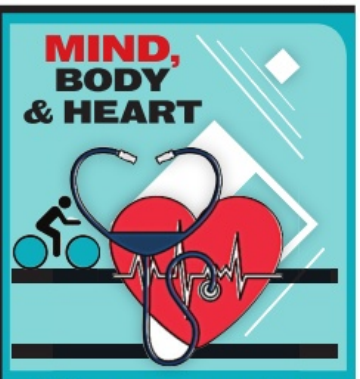
After 11.8 years, 9.8 per cent of LCHF participants experienced a MACE, compared to 4.3 per cent of those on a standard diet, revealed the study, published in JACC: Advances.

"There is a popular belief these days that carbohydrates should be reduced in the diet. Some people are also advocating consuming a low-carbohydrate and high-fat diet. It may lead to weight loss but is associated with increased bad cholesterol (LDL) and also increased cardiovascular MACE events which means that the risk of heart attack, stroke, and deaths from heart attacks increase," Ashwani Mehta, Senior Consultant, Department of Cardiology, Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, told IANS.

"The latest study also demonstrates the risk associated with eating a higher amount of fat with derangement of the lipid parameters which can be life-threatening," he added.

Doctors recommended that one should not follow the fad diets, and instead go for healthier ways to reduce weight.

–IANS



All you need to know about...

5 manicure trends

Chrome Nails
Perhaps the biggest trend in 2023 was chrome nails, and that will continue into the next year. Expect to see chrome finishes across a range of different colors — silver, gold, blue, and pink, to name a few. Like any other nail design, chrome can be used on the entire nail or as part of a nail art look.

Coffin Shape Nails
Also known as ballerina nails, the shape looks like a stiletto nail but with a square tip rather than leaving it pointy. It works on both long and short nails and it's been seen on countless celebrities, notably Kylie Jenner, Rosalía, and Rihanna.

Colorful pastel nails
Pastel nail colours are a trendy look, and it's one that's easy to pull off. Pastels can be very subtle if you want them to be, but they can also completely change the feel of your nails. If you're feeling bold, try out a pastel on all of your nails for an eye-catching pop of colour.

3D Nail Art – As with many of our fave weird and wonderful beauty upgrades, the trend for 3D manis started off in Korea before making its way around the globe and onto the fingertips of some of our favorite celebs. The nail art sees 3D accents like squiggles, flowers, water droplets, and even gummy bears and tiny cartoon characters added to nails for a little extra swag.

Flash Gel Polish – These new glitter gel polishes are giving sparkle a revolutionary shake-up with exciting light-activated technology that causes glitter to flare when exposed to flash photography.

Sharmila Thanki
Founder, TIP & TOE Nails Lashes Brows, for Femina

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

45-[38-{60/3-(6-9/3/3)}] = ?

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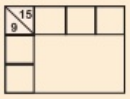
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



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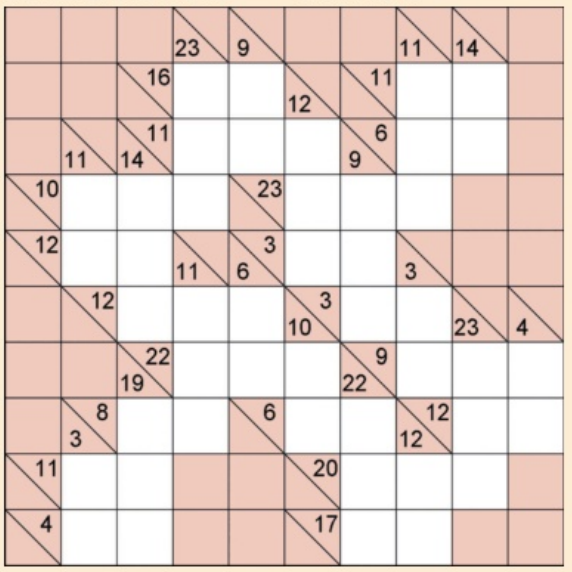

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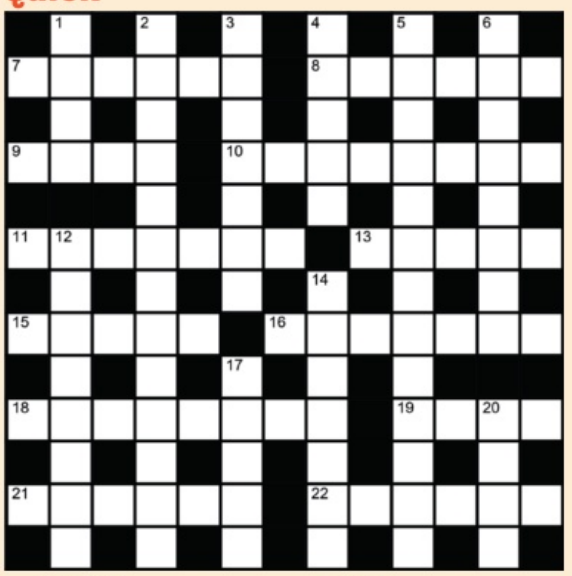


ACROSS

7 Sketches or portrays (6)
8 We sit on them (6)
9 Ark builder (4)
10 Endeavour to contact and help those in need (8)
11 Disaster of 1912 (7)
13 Frequently (5)
15 Tale (5)
16 Is false to (7)
18 Degree holder (8)
19 Great playback singer Mohd. ___ (4)
21 Accommodated (6)
22 First born (6)

DOWN

1 Roman censor (4)
2 South Indian state (6,7)
3 Portuguese seaside resort (7)
4 Very severe (5)
5 Duped or fooled; gypped (5,3,1,4)
6 Deception, perfidy or betrayal (8)
12 International law enforcement agency (8)
14 Respects greatly or venerates (7)
17 ___ Hills: Scenic spot around 60 kms from Bangalore (5)
20 Quick (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: R EQUALS G

TOMF BVLWHUHR PDVA HDS SVLMF OHPVWASLHPUHR.

Linemaro

Can I borrow your number?

Mindchow

When you give and expect anything back, it is not love, but an investment

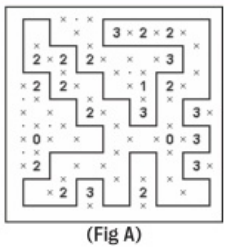
Joke of the day

You don't appreciate a lot of stuff in school until you get older... little things, like being spanked every day by a middle-aged woman — stuff you pay good money for in later life

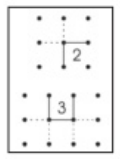
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



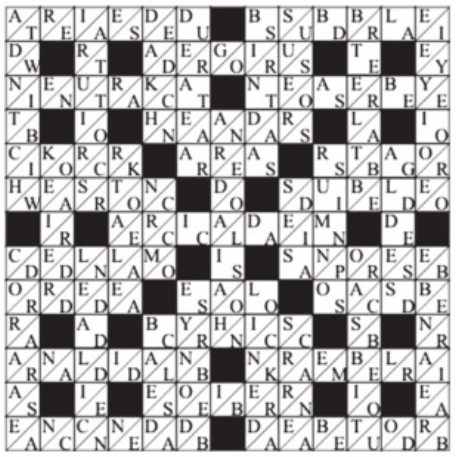
(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				Y

ACROSS

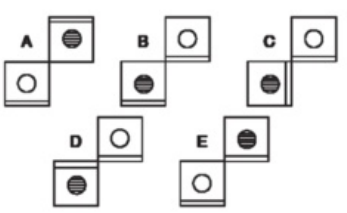
1 Blue M; 6 Spare;
7 Emits; 8 Me ere;
9 RY rat

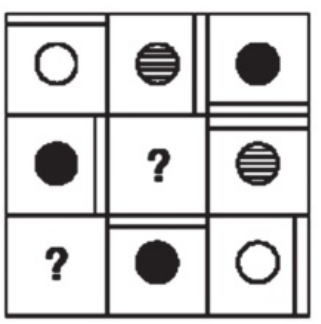
DOWN

1 Set up; 2 Ma Mam;
3 Re-rib; 4 Steer;
5 Erley

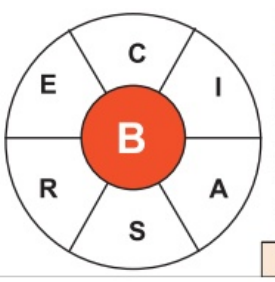
Mensapuzzle

Which are the two missing squares?





Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; **12** Good; **14** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

				4				
1	6				5			9
	4		1	3	6		8	
2				9		5		
4	3						2	6
		1		6				3
	2		6	1	3		4	
5			4				6	2
				7				

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

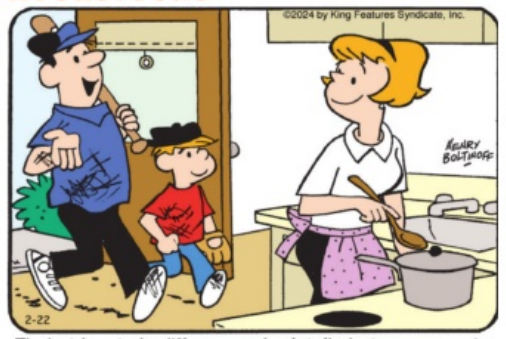
Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 15
2 2 3 5

Medium = 26
3 6 8 9

Hard = 16
2 8 9 5

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

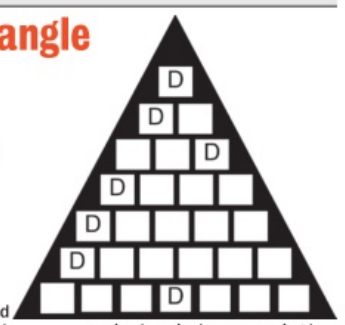
Differences: 1. Pot handle is longer. 2. Hair is longer. 3. Collar is missing. 4. Leg is moved. 5. Counter is wider. 6. Shade is lighter.

Riddler

As still as death with baited breath he waits with lidless eye. As cold as stone he waits alone for prey to happen by. And in a blink too quick to think he strikes with lightning speed And by and by the prey will die and then it's time to feed. Who or what is he?

Alpha triangle

1 Fourth letter
2 Act
3 Do lawn work
4 Hounds
5 Venetian officials
6 Herd orphans
7 Treats

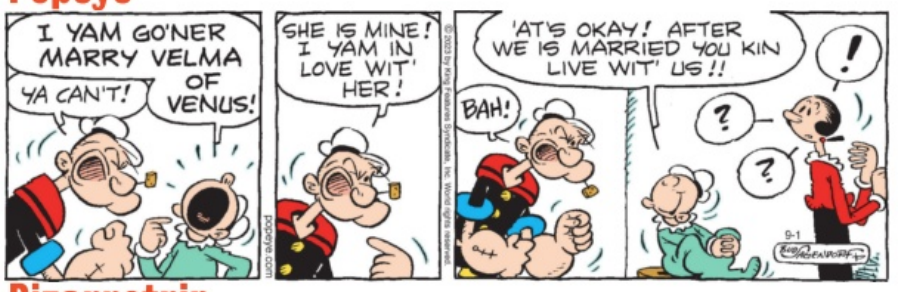


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip

Didn't I tell you my scalp balm would give you thicker hair?
Wayno & Piraro 2-22-24
Dist. by King Features
BIZARRO.COM
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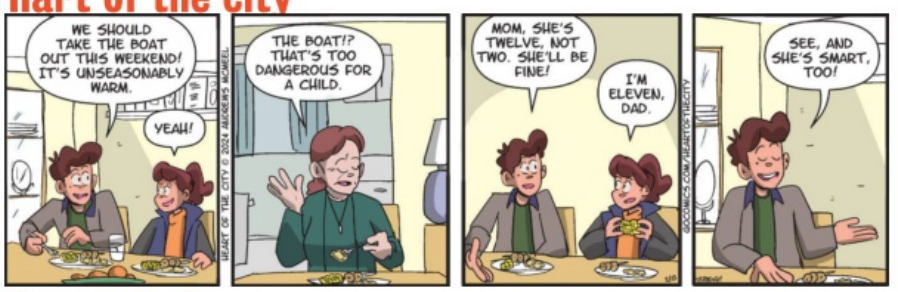
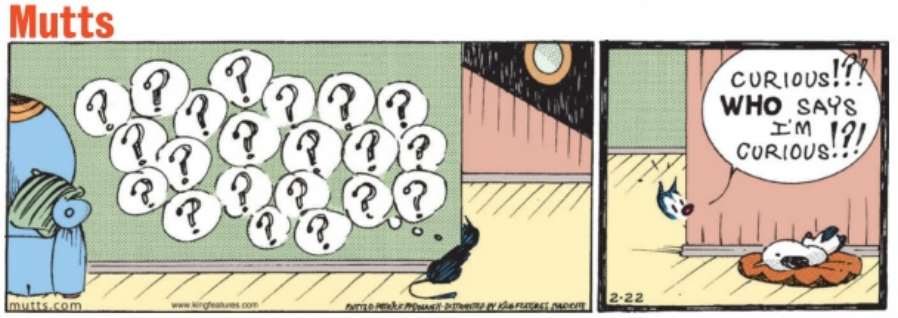
Diamond Lil

Hart of the city


WE SHOULD TAKE THE BOAT OUT THIS WEEKEND! IT'S UNSEASONABLY WARM.
YEAH!
THE BOAT!? THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS FOR A CHILD.
MOM, SHE'S TWELVE, NOT TWO. SHE'LL BE FINE!
I'M ELEVEN, DAD.
SEE, AND SHE'S SMART, TOO!

Crankshaft

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may feel a bit dull and dissatisfied, affecting both your professional and domestic life. Lack of confidence might hinder your creativity at work.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You'll feel energetic and efficient at work today, with property disputes likely to be resolved. Meeting influential people will boost your network, and disputes with partners may also see resolutions.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Blessed by the moon, you'll feel happy and make difficult business decisions with family support. Your communication skills may land you a big order, boosting your business.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Blessed by the moon, you'll have good internal strength and enjoy work and romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing domestic harmony. Implementing new plans successfully is likely, and job seekers may find good opportunities.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You may feel disappointed and are advised to control arrogance to avoid losses due to harsh speaking. Love birds should avoid discussions on worthless topics to maintain harmony.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today brings peace of mind, with plans to invest in the business increasing liquidity. Romantic moments with your spouse will enhance family harmony, and singles may find a good match.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Blessed by the moon, you'll enjoy work with good focus and wisdom, helping you make difficult decisions. Past investments may yield profits, and things will generally be under control.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
With positive lunar influences, your health will be good, and you may visit religious places or plan charitable donations. Property deals and overseas travel for work may be on the cards.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, be wary of conspiracies and controversies, and avoid arguments at home. Strong willpower and blessings from elders will protect you, but avoid rush driving or adventures.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Expect happiness today, with losses turning into profits and potential promotions at work. You'll likely control opponents and hidden enemies, and love birds may make important marriage decisions with help from relatives or friends.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Busy at work, your enthusiasm will speed up projects and lead to quick decisions, potentially boosting your business. However, avoid investing in fixed assets in partnerships.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Blessed by the moon, you'll perform well at work, possibly leading to promotions or transfers. Relations with seniors will be strong, and old health issues may finally be cured.

KIDZONE

Diya Bharath, 6 Years, Inventure Academy

Ankita S Vellara, 8 Years, Sophia High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

RIDDLER A snake

SOLVE IN 1M
45-{38-[60/3-(6-3/3)]} = Much learning
45-{38-[60/3-(6-1)]} =
45-{38-[60/3-(5)]} =
45-{38-[20-5)]} =
45-{38-[15]} =
45-{38-15} =
45-23 = 22

QUOTE UNCODE
does not teach
understanding.

FAST FIVE

T	A	R	R	Y
E	M	E	E	R
S	M	I	T	E
P	A	R	S	E
U	M	B	E	L

STRIKE OUT

E	N	N	E	A	D	D	E	B	T	O	R
S	E	S	O	B	E	R	I	E		E
R	A	D	I	A	N	K	A	M	B	L	I
A	A	C	Y	N	I	C	B	R		R
O	D	E	A	S	A	L	S	A	D	E	
C	E	L	L	O	I	S	P	R	E		
R	A	C	C	L	A	I	M	D			
H	A	S	O	N	O	S	U	E	D	E	
C	O	C	K	R	E	S	S	T	A	R	
T	I	H	E	A	D	S	A	O			
I	N	T	A	C	T	N	E	A	R	B	Y
W	T	A	E	G	I	S	E	E			
T	E	A	S	E	D	B	U	B	B	L	E

QUICK

L	H	I	S	E	T					
H	O	U	S	E	D	E	L	D	E	S	T
P	E	N	R	I	A					
G	R	A	D	U	A	T	E	R	A	F	I
E	A	N	V	A						
S	T	O	R	Y	B	E	T	R	A	Y	S
N	P	L	R	O	R					
T	I	T	A	N	I	C	O	F	T	E	N
R										
N	O	A	H	O	U	T	R	E	A	C	H
T	D	T	U	K	I					
P	A	I	N	T	S	C	H	A	I	R	S
C	A	E	A	T	T					

MENSA PUZZLE
8: each row of three tiles across and down contains a white dot, striped dot and black dot, and a line in each of three positions.

BULL'S EYE
ASCRIBE, bare, base, baser, basic, bear, brier, brace, bralse, brie, crab, crib, scab, scribe

SUDOKU

6	9	4	5	7	2	3	1	8
5	1	3	4	8	9	7	6	2
8	2	7	6	1	3	9	4	5
7	5	1	2	6	4	8	9	3
4	3	9	8	5	7	1	2	6
2	8	6	3	9	1	5	7	4
9	4	5	1	3	6	2	8	7
1	6	8	7	2	5	4	3	9
3	7	2	9	4	8	6	5	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
D, Do, Sod, Dogs, Doges, Dogies, Goodies.

GO FIGURE
Easy
5 - 2 + 2 x 3 = 15
Medium
9 / 3 x 6 + 8 = 26
Hard
9 - 5 x 8 / 2 = 16

LOOP

KAKURO

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Going places

Actress Swathi Konde speaks multiple languages and has acted in movies in three different languages. The diploma holder in automobiles from Tumakuru, did not get into acting by choice but by accident.

"I accidentally came into movies. I happened to come across an advertisement for conducting auditions for Kannada movie Riktha. I got selected but I could not act in it due to some reasons. Finally, I got an opportunity to act in the movie Beautiful Manasugalu, directed by Jayatheeratha," said Swathi.

Swathi's dedication and acting skills made director Jayatheertha give her another chance to act in his next movie Vanilla. "I consider Jayatheertha as my Godfather in Sandalwood. I will not forget his guidance and encouragement. I also acted in two more Kannada movies, Kamarottu Check Post and Kattu Kathe," she said.

Meanwhile, she acted in Tamil tele serial – Vaaranam Aayiram – and a Tamil movie Meiyazhagan and Malayalam movie Pavi Caretaker.

"I am very happy with the success of my maiden movie in Malayalam. It is running houseful across Kerala. I am very happy to be part of the team and expect to act in more and more Malayalam movies in future. My Tamil movie is expected to be released in a few weeks," she said.

On the opportunities in Sandalwood, she said that some directors and producers have approached her to act in their movies. "I am waiting for heroine-oriented movies meant for family audiences. I do not want to act in movies that consist of intimate scenes." she said.

–Y Maheswara Reddy

Yes, we Cannes

Triple feat for India with three major awards

It was a triple feat for Indian talent at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival with Payal Kapadia's "All We Imagine As Light", "Sunflowers Were the First Ones to Know" by FTII student Chidananda S Naik, and Anasuya Sengupta of "The Shameless" fame winning major awards in each of the three competitive sections of the prestigious gala.

The 77th edition of Cannes, which concluded on Saturday, was undoubtedly the best year for the country which found space at the fest through eight Indian, or India-themed, films.

Kapadia, an alumna of the Film & Television Institute of India (FTII), charted history by becoming the first Indian filmmaker to win the Grand Prix award for "All We Imagine as Light".

"Thank you, Cannes Film Festival for having our film here. Please don't wait 30 years to have another Indian film," she said in her speech.

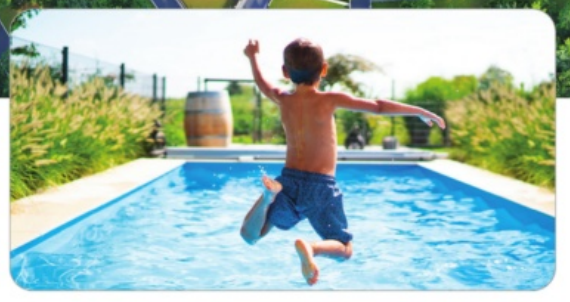
The movie earned the honour, the second-most prestigious prize of the gala after the Palme d'Or, which went to American director Sean Baker for "Anora".

"All We Imagine as Light", a Malayalam-Hindi feature starring Kani Kusruti, Divya Prabha and Chhaya Kadam, revolves around three women in Mumbai who go on a road trip to a beach town.

Kapadia's movie, her feature directorial debut, is the first Indian film in 30 years and first ever by an Indian female director to be showcased in main competition, last being Shaji N Karun's "Swaham" (1994).

ನಿಸರ್ಗದ ಮಡಿಲಲ್ಲಿ ಒಂದು ಸುಂದರ ವಸತಿ ಬಡಾವಣೆ

ರೋಹನ್ ಎಸ್ಟೇಟ್ ನೀರುಮಾರ್ಗ ಹಿಲ್ಸ್, ಮಂಗಳೂರು



- ಗೇಟೆಡ್ ಕಮ್ಯೂನಿಟಿ
- ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ ಕ್ಲಬ್ ಹೌಸ್
- 9.48 ಎಕರೆ ವಿಸ್ತಾರ
- 96 ನಿವೇಶನಗಳು
- ಆಕರ್ಷಕ ಬೀದಿ ದೀಪಗಳು
- ಸುಂದರ ಉದ್ಯಾನ
- ಮಳೆನೀರು ಕೊಯ್ಲು
- ಒಳಚರಂಡಿ ಸಂಸ್ಕರಣಾ ಘಟಕ
- ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಜಿಮ್
- ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಟದ ವಲಯ
- ಆಧುನಿಕ ಕೆಫೆ
- ಸುಂದರ ಈಜುಕೊಳ
- ಭೂಗತ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಕೇಬಲ್‌ಗಳು
- ಮಿನಿ ಸೂಪರ್ ಮಾರ್ಕೆಟ್
- 24x7 ಸಿಸಿಟಿವಿ ಭದ್ರತೆ
- 30 / 40 ಅಡಿ ಕಾಂಕ್ರೀಟ್ ರಸ್ತೆಗಳು

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